

THE PARISH MESSENGER

A PERSONAL VISITOR TO THE PARISHES

VOLUME 12

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No. 2

THOU CROWNEST THE YEAR WITH THY GOODNESS

BY WILLIAM LARSEN

President, United Evangelical Lutheran Church

The writers of the Bible are particularly insistent that we all give thanks to the Lord for His creation, for His provident care, for redemption in Jesus Christ, and for our fellowmen. These broad categories do not actually include all of the gifts for which we are urged to give thanks, but they are sufficient to indicate to us that gratitude ought to be the primary motivating force in the lives of human beings.

The President of the United States in his proclamation to the nation indicates to all American citizens that we ought humbly to bow before God to offer our thanks for His goodness to His servants. In the reading of history it is apparent that it is characteristically human to forget to be grateful for gifts which have been bestowed upon one generation after the other. Reasons for this are not difficult to find in Holy Scripture. The human heart is frail, and man does not willingly admit that his good life is not a fruit of his own powers. God is the source of all things, and our co-workers are also used to help each one of us. No person can ever be called a self-made man. No nation, as we have recently learned, can continue to live in isolation. There is an interdependence one upon the other, and ultimately upon God, who is the creator of all things.

To properly give thanks to God for His care, love, and mercy, we meet together for worship where we express our gratitude privately and corporately. We use and appropriate God's gifts by being responsible stewards of His kindness toward us. Imagine that a good friend has given you a gift for which you expressed your gratitude. Let us imagine that

you never used the gift which you received. You set it aside in the attic or hid it in the closet. The giver would never assume from your action that you really were grateful. Similarly our gratitude to God and our fellowmen must be expressed in proper use and stewardship of the gifts which we have received. Thanksgiving is thus both a time to worship and give thanks, but also a time to review our lives and try to determine if we are responsible stewards for the gifts that we have received.



EPIPHANY 1957

*Help
Liberia Lutherans
Train Leaders!*

**GOAL -
\$85,000**

A BLESSED 1956 CHRISTMAS A TRULY HAPPY 1957 NEW YEAR

How about carrying our spirit of THANKSGIVING DAY forward into our observance of ADVENT SEASON culminating in our paeans of praise at CHRISTMAS TIME thus assuring ourselves of A TRULY HAPPY NEW YEAR IN 1957?

II.

STEWARDSHIP is a trust-ship. As stewards we are entrusted with a responsibility. In God we put our trust. He also puts His trust in us. Therefore He has given us a TRUST to fulfill as He fulfills His Promises to us.

Better than a New Year's resolution would be a self-examination at New Year's time as to our faithfulness in fulfilling this TRUST we have from Him. This we can best do by asking ourselves individually:—

1. Am I a faithful steward (keeper) of the life God has given me?

2. Am I a faithful steward of the lives God has given to me in my Home Life?

3. Am I a faithful steward of the Gospel God has given me to share with others?

4. Am I a faithful steward of my Church in its Mission at home and abroad?

GOD HELP US to be faithful trustees in 1957.

III.

MISSIONS ABROAD are especially remembered in our ULCA Churches during the EPIPHANY SEASON.

During 1957, LIBERIA is to receive special attention from us. Secure your study materials, slides and films for this field by applying to the Board of Foreign Missions, 231 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N.Y.

Remember that Mr. and Mrs. Johann K. Polson of our Synod went to Liberia in 1953. The December issue of PARISH MESSENGER carried their picture and a report of their commissioning at Selkirk, Man.

During 1958, JAPAN will be our field of special study. It was here that our first Missionaries served for

25 years, sailing from Vancouver, B.C. in 1916 after their commissioning also at Selkirk, Man.

IV.

The only Church of our Synod sending us its bulletin regularly is—The United Lutheran at Cavalier, N.D.

We would appreciate it if Church Councils would designate some one to slip a Bulletin each time you have one into an envelope addressed to—EDITOR, Parish Messenger. It costs only 2 cents.

A Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

We have become acquainted with your interesting publication and have concluded that it undoubtedly would serve as a useful tool in a Lutheran research library. YOUR PERIODICAL HAS BEEN JUDGED AS ONE HAVING MORE THAN TEMPORARY INTEREST TO LUTHERANS. (The CAPITALS are ours. Ed.)

The Concordia Historical Institute is located in St. Louis, Missouri, on the campus of Concordia Seminary. A library, archives and museum are maintained and are open to the public. Organized in 1927, it was privileged to dedicate its own separate building in 1952. Our stacks and archives are air-conditioned and humidity controlled, thus taking every precaution humanly possible to preserve the invaluable historical references entrusted to our care.

(Here follows a request to be placed on our mailing list.)

Gratefully yours,

AUGUST R. SUELFLOW,
Director.

THE PARISH MESSENGER

News Journal of the Icelandic
Evangelical Lutheran Synod of
America.

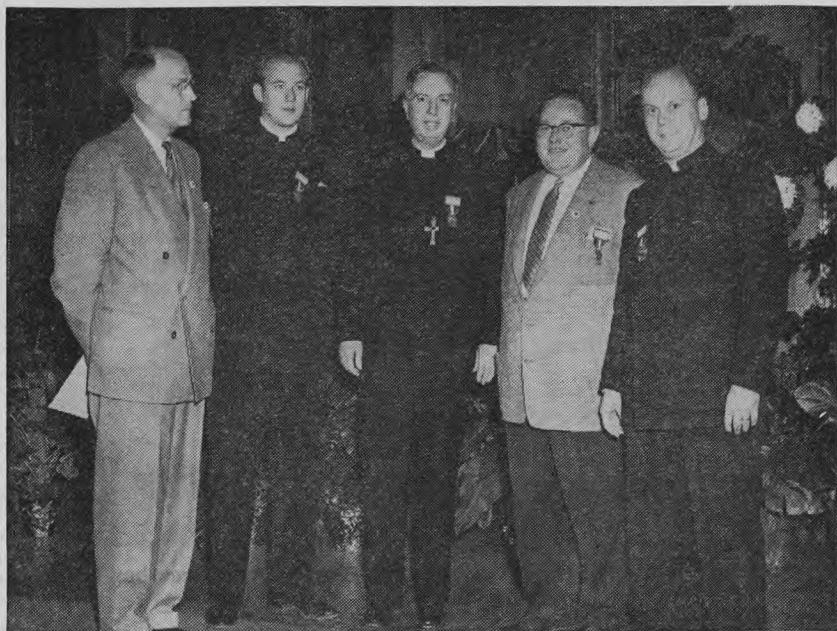
Printed quarterly in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The REV. S. O. THORLAKSSON, Editor.
1633 Elm Street

San Carlos

Calif., U.S.A.

1956 U.L.C.A. CONVENTION



Left to right: Mr. L. H. Thorlaksson, Pastor Olafur Skulason, Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, ULCA president, Mr. R. B. Vopni, Pastor Eric H. Sigmar.

The above picture shows our four synodical delegates to the United Lutheran Church Convention in Harrisburg, October 10th-17th, chatting with Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the ULC. All four delegates are unanimous that this convention was one of the greatest experiences of their life-time. It gave each of us a deep sense of joy to realize that we as individuals, and as congregations, and as a synod, are part of the great church body which we call the United Lutheran Church in America with its 2,270,000 members. We were a part of the 700 official delegates who represented almost 5,000 congregations found in eight of the ten provinces of Canada, and 46 of the 48 States of the United States.

Perhaps one of the most stimulating experiences of the convention was to sit under the brilliant leadership of our president, Dr. Fry. He guided the multitudinous details of

the many important issues under discussion with clarity and expediency. He was re-elected to another six-year term.

Reports from the various Boards and Agencies of the Church were often dramatically presented such as the report of the Board of Foreign Missions. The Board had gathered together over 25 of its missionaries in seven foreign fields overseas to give a first-hand account of our work.

Delegates were thrilled to hear from the Board of American Missions that by the end of 1956, 80 new home mission congregations would have been organized under their auspices. (St. Stephen's of our synod, one of them.) But to continue this strong advance in 1957 and 1958 men and money are desperately needed.

Long discussions were held on the matter of pensions for retiring pastors. A minimum of \$900.00 per

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CORNERSTONE LAID FOR ADDITION TO BETEL



Progress made on the new addition to "BETEL" to November 15, 1956

Premier Douglas M. Campbell officiated on Sunday, November 18, 1956, at the laying of the cornerstone of the addition to the present Betel Home for the Aged, at Gimli, Manitoba.

This was the second ceremony since actual construction was commenced of the new addition. On Sunday, September 23, the turning of the first sod ceremony took place. Present among others were: Mayor Barney Egilson, chairman of the Special Building Committee of six members, who turned the sod; Frank Lount, the building contractor; Sveinn Bjarnason, superintendent of construction; Rev. B. Fridriksson, at that time Lutheran Pastor in Gimli; Dr. G. Johnson of Gimli; and Mrs. Augusta Tallman, Matron of Betel.

Over 300 people attended the cornerstone ceremony, which was in the hands of Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, Chairman of the Betel Committee. Hon. Robert W. Bend, who was Minister of Health when plans were made for the financing of the addition, delivered the main address. Mayor Barney Egilson extended greetings. Dr. V. J. Eylands, Presi-

dent of the Icelandic Lutheran Synod, and Rev. P. M. Peturson, a member of the general advisory committee, spoke briefly and Rev. S. Olafson of Selkirk, a strong supporter of Betel for many years, gave the benediction.

In his address Mr. Bend traced the steps leading to the arrangement which made the financing of the building possible. The total cost is \$180,000.00 of which the province is contributing \$42,500. This is in accordance with a plan laid down by the provincial government in 1955, whereby grants are made to new buildings of this kind on a per-room basis.

Before assisting in laying the heavy cornerstone the Premier of Manitoba paid tribute to the pioneers who, through their sacrifice, built up the district and made possible the erection of a sunset home for others who are following in their footsteps.

The total amount subscribed at the time the cornerstone was laid was approximately \$110,000.00, leaving a balance of \$70,000.00 still to be raised.

(Continued on Page 14)

CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

PASTOR J. FREDRIKSSON, *Synod Representative*

May we remind the congregations of Synod of our responsibility on on behalf of the Canadian Lutheran World Relief? Our quota for 1956 is \$3,881.27, and by the end of September was had contributed only \$417.88! What are we going to do about it?

The need is desperate. The newspaper headlines remind us of this need every day. Christ taught us in the parable of "The Good Samaritan" that *people in need* are our neighbors, and that we are responsible for their relief.

The following information has just come to hand from Headquarters—"Canadian Lutheran World Relief has been advised concerning the situation in Hungary from the standpoint of material supplies needed. After urgent cable information received November 1st from the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva, \$1,000.00 was cabled overseas to purchase bed linens, blankets, underwear, shirts and other necessary material supplies. One truck convoy of foodstuffs entered western Hungary on October 31st and another will leave on Saturday for Budapest. The first Lutheran Distribution Center in Hungary has already been established.

The reports we have received indicate pitiful material conditions in the homes of workers and pastors. Help is urgently needed. We are awaiting information as to our future role in meeting the situation in Hungary."

Reports of tragic conditions come to us also from Syria. We quote in part—"Visit with us the refugees on the shores of Lake Tiberias. This region is sacred to us by the memory of many miracles wrought by Christ in His day on earth. Today the beauty of the place is marred by the unholy rivalries which have made the possession of this lake an object of bitter contest between hostile nations. The refugees living there are said to be the poorest in the land. There is no work for them to do.

They are restricted in their movements and practically isolated from the rest of the world. Do not ask about their living conditions, for we promised not to describe them to you. When we were there, one of the chiefs said, 'Please do not tell your people how we live, because it is a disgrace to humanity. We would feel so ashamed if the world knew about these conditions. But could you not provide us with some blankets for the winter months?'

There are about 5,000 refugees living in this area. I hope we shall be able to obtain blankets for them somehow from somewhere."

Your Headquarters for Canadian Lutheran World Relief is 308 Kennedy Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Let us of the Icelandic Synod make a substantial Christmas Gift to these suffering neighbors of ours who so desperately need a helping hand from our land of plenty. *Coming forward with our quota* should be our answer to this distressing need.

WANTED

LUTHER LEAGUERS WITH DIRTY HANDS!

Volunteer service for those unafraid of work. Young men and women ages 15-24. Cost: effort, time, transportation, simple living. Reward: Christian community living, spiritual growth, alleviating social injustices. Time: One week during the summer of 1957. Youth interested should apply to: LUTHER LEAGUE WORK CAMPS, 825 Muhlenberg Bldg., 1228 Spruce St., Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania.



In Memoriam

As this issue of the P.M. was about to go to press, word came from its editor, the Rev. S. O. Thorlaksson, stating that his wife, Carolina, had passed away at a San Francisco hospital Wednesday, Dec. 20th. Carolina Thorlaksson (nee Thomas) a charming and gifted woman, was a native of Winnipeg. Following their marriage in 1914, the Thorlakssons left for Japan where they served as missionaries for over 25 years. Mrs. Thorlaksson is survived by four children, and twelve grandchildren. Sincere sympathy is extended.

PARISH NEWS FLASHES

Mountain Parish

Our Evangelism Mission was a great inspiration to all of us. It has renewed life in the congregation by bringing many new people to church and has given members a more thorough understanding of their responsibilities as Christians.

We of the Vikur and Fjalla congregations were very fortunate in having Dr. John Futsch, President of the Rocky Mountain Synod as our Missioner. He is a very gifted and able speaker. His sermons, Sunday to Thursday, were most inspiring.

Attendances: Sunday 146, Monday 136, Tuesday 130, Wednesday 187 and Thursday 196. Total 795. Total offering \$262.13.

This special Evangelism Mission effort is to be continued in our congregation by an Evangelism Committee. The results will go on and be a blessing to all who participate in this great mission of witnessing.

The opening prayer at each of the Mission services was given by a lay member: Richard Steinolfson, Robt. Thorfinson, Eugene Byron, Keith Byron and Stony Steinolfson.

An evening of beautiful music was enjoyed by our congregation on October 3, when the Rev. E. J. Lund of Larimore, organist, Mr. Sanford Lee, pianist, Mrs. Adolph Moen, soprano and Mr. Paul Hankey, baritone, of Park River, gave us a splendid program. This program was sponsored by our Choir, which also rendered two numbers. A free-will offering was received to help pay for the church carpet.

A Sunday School program was held at the close of the school year, October 28. Several numbers were rendered by the Sunday School classes. The Epistle was read by Robert Thorfinson and the Gospel by Marabeth Knutson. Attendance awards were presented.

Our Luther League conducted a service on September 30 Kenneth Halldorson was the leader and Rosemary Bjornson, the organist. The Epistle was read by Carol Pleasance and the Gospel by Carol Christianson. The sermon was given by Paula Jo Geston. Installation of officers followed. There have been four meetings of the Luther League so far this fall and they have been very

successful. We have 66 members who manifest wonderful enthusiasm and co-operation.

The annual meeting of the Vikur congregation took place on November 24. The various committees gave their reports, one of which was from the Deaconess Committee stating that they are sponsoring a 100% subscription to the Lutheran magazine among our members. More news next time.

MRS. JACK THORFINSON.

Svold Parish

There was much enthusiasm in the planning for the Evangelism Mission held November 11-15 at St. Peter's and Hallson churches. Services were held alternately in the two churches which were filled every night with members and visitors from both congregations who came to hear the inspiring messages preached by the young Missioner, the Rev. Marlo D. Petersen, pastor of St. Paul's at Postville, Iowa. Pastor Petersen won a place in every listener's heart. We are thankful to God for having sent him to us. Roads between the two churches were almost impassable because of mud, but that did not stop people from attending services. Some drove as far as 15 miles every night.

We praise God for the success of the Mission week and give much credit to our Pastor, Olafur Skulason and to the many laymen and women who spent a great deal of time and much effort in preparation work. Our congregational lay-Chairman was Mr. Eldon Hillman. The Chairmen of the other committees were: Prayer, Mrs. K. D. Dinusson; Lay Visits, Everett Hillman; Publicity, Bob Sturlaugson; Hospitality, Matt Bjornson; Music, Mrs. Margaret Goodman; Telephone, Mrs. Dori Hillman; and Finance, Dave Davidson. Many faithful members served with these chairmen, and every one was willing and ready to help make this Mission week the success that it was.

On September 5, Pastor Skulason dedicated the Chancel Chair given to St. Peter's Church in memory of Asgeir Sturlaugson by his family and friends.

Our young people belong to the Luther League and hold their meetings jointly with the Mountain L.L.

The annual meeting of the congregation was held November 5. An interesting report on the Synod Convention at Vancouver, B.C., was given by Mrs. Laura Dalsted, our delegate.

Mr. Dave Davidson has compiled records of our church life and activities for a number of years and was asked to continue this good work.

The congregation decided to contribute \$50.00 to BORG, the Old People's Home at Mountain. They also voted to increase their Benevolence to Synod from \$35 to \$125.

Three new trustees were elected: K. D. Dinusson, Siggi Dalsted and Wm. Johnson. The holdover trustees are: Eldon Hillman and Everett Hillman. The Chairman, Bob Sturlaugson, thanked Pastor Skulason on behalf of the congregation for the splendid work he has done since coming into our midst.

The Rev. David Wasgatt of Dresden conducted services in our church on October 7 in the absence of Pastor Skulason who was attending the ULCA Convention at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Many of our members also attended services at Hallson on October 21 when Rev. Wasgatt preached there.

Our Thanksgiving Service is scheduled for November 25. We have much for which to be thankful.

MRS. BOB STURLAUGSON.

The First Lutheran Church

The Annual Meeting was held Monday evening, Dec. 10. The chairman, Mr. Grettir Eggertson conducted the meeting efficiently and in a cheerful spirit. The reports of all auxiliary organizations, as well as of all official boards, were well prepared, and showed the Church to be in a healthy state. The reports contained a wealth of information about the work of the Church. New members elected for the Board of Trustees were: Harvey Johnson, Wm. Finnbogason. For the Board of Deacons, Mrs. K. Johannson, Mrs. I. Bjornson, and Mrs. Arnheidur Eyjolfson.

The Treasurer's Report showed that the total receipts during the year amounted to \$14,736.07, and the expenditures \$18,959.36. The Pastor's

Report showed 57 Baptisms, 24 confirmations, 27 weddings, and 35 funerals during the year. An Evangelism Committee consisting of Oscar Bjorklund and Halldor Bjarnason, was elected, and they are authorized to add to their number four members from the congregation.

Aldeman Paul Goodman is the new president of the congregation.

St. Stephen's, St. James

God continues to bless our work with growth. This fall we have experienced growth in attendance, in membership, in our Sunday School, and in enthusiasm among our members. Average attendance the last four Sundays has been 115 at Morning Worship services. A membership service on December 16 will bring our confirmed membership to 120. Enrollment in Sunday School is now 101. Enthusiasm of members was keenly evident during the recent Evangelism Mission with 32 lay visitors out making calls on prospects, Monday through Thursday evening. The Mission was a blessing for our congregation as it kindled our people to their responsibility to do evangelism as a regular on-going program. The visits produced these results: over 20 people for the pastor's class, 24 for transfer of membership, 8 for re-affirmation of faith, 7 brought to Sunday School, 5 children for baptism. Many of those who will transfer come from Lutheran churches in rural areas who have moved into St. James. Our Sunday School will present its Christmas Program on December 23, at 4.30 p.m. We have secured the St. James Collegiate Auditorium as the YMCA auditorium is not large enough to accommodate the crowd expected. Women of our Church group are preparing 12 Christmas hampers to give to the aged needy in St. James. Offerings for Apportioned Benevolence (Missions) from the red side of the duplex envelopes average over \$15.00 per Sunday now. Our apportionment is \$400, as allocated by our synod, but we hope to reach \$700 by the synodical year-end, June 1. Offerings for the local budget, current expenses and building fund have also been encouraging.

Selkirk Parish

The year drawing to a close has been a blessed year in our Selkirk Lutheran Church. This spring 25 young people were confirmed. There have been 41 baptisms, five of which were adult baptisms. Thirty new members beside the confirmation class have joined the congregation. The pastor has conducted a Pastor's Class for prospective members since the Evangelism Mission. The Sunday School enrollment has now reached an all-time high.

Our Evangelism Mission was a success. With united hearts and hands we prepared for it. Over 300 visits were made by lay members before and during the mission week. Supper meetings with the host pastor, missionary and visiting groups were held every evening of the mission week. The total attendance at the services was over 900. We are hoping for great results in renewed interest, new members for the congregation and Sunday School and united efforts in all our endeavours. The missionary, Rev. Edward A. Day of the Ascension Church, St. Paul, is a powerful, winsome speaker. Our Lay Chairman, Victor Maxon, did an outstanding work, to him much of the credit is due for the great success of the undertaking. Credit is also coming to our organist Mrs. M. Hannesson, choir director Mrs. L. McKeag and the secretary of the congregation, Mr. J. E. Erickson.

We are now preparing for Christmas with our usual enthusiasm for pageants and concerts in the Sunday School. Special services with musical selections rendered by the Junior and Senior choirs.

MRS. S. OLAFSSON.

Gimli Parish

We welcomed our new pastor, Rev. John Fullmer, and his wife and son Timothy, on October 21, and they have won a lasting place in our hearts already, with their friendly, unassuming sincerity. Pastor Fullmer is encouraging the continuation of parish activities already in progress, while gradually introducing new ideas which should help arouse new interest in the work of the

church. He edits weekly an informal little newspaper which is sent to all interested people, keeping them in touch with all the happenings of the parish. A pastor's class is held each Wednesday for those wishing to better acquaint themselves with the aims and purposes of the Lutheran Church.

The choir sponsored a showing of slides of the Vancouver Convention by Mrs. Kristin Johnson, during November. Those who saw it felt that they themselves had attended the meetings, the pictures were so vivid. Luther League is being re-organized, with separate groups for younger and older members.

The big news around Gimli this month is the laying of the cornerstone of the new Betel addition by Premier D. L. Campbell on November 18. Minister of Public Works Robert Bend also gave a brief address. Work has been proceeding on the building at a good steady pace, and it is hoped that it will be able to continue throughout the winter. Everyone marvelled at the lifting of the two upper sheets of concrete by modern hydraulic lifts. Residents and the staff members of Betel are happy to see their dream of a new fireproof home becoming a reality before their eyes.

Pastor Fullmer was installed at a largely attended evening service, December 9. The President of Synod, the Rev. Dr. V. J. Eylands, preached the sermon and conducted the installation service.

MRS. E. HOWARD.

Riverton Parish

There has been very little activity in church matters here since Pastor Bragi Fredriksson left for Iceland. We have had only one service this fall conducted by the Rev. Earl Treusch, Executive Director, Canadian Lutheran Council.

Our Sunday School is carried on every Sunday at 11 a.m. Now that Christmas is drawing near, the children will be practicing for their Christmas Tree program. The Luther League has its regular meetings every month.

The congregation observed its annual Thanksgiving Supper on Nov. 11 as so many of the Church members were away at the time of Thanksgiving (October). We had a very good attendance and the proceeds will go into the Church treasury.

A meeting was called in each of the congregations of this parish—Riverton, Arborg, Vidor, Geysir and Hnausa, to send out a Call for a Pastor. The Rev. J. Larsen of Morton received the majority votes. He was highly recommended by the President of Synod and Pastor Fullmer of Gimli. He has accepted the call and will take charge about Feb. 15, 1957.

MRS EMMA BRIEM.

Langruth Parish

Our church services are conducted regularly once a month by the Rev. Eric H. Sigmar of Winnipeg. With his able guidance our church life is kept fairly active giving us an incentive to work more diligently in the vinyard of our Lord and Master.

Vacation Church School was conducted in August under the able leadership of Miss Eleanore Gillstrom of Saskatoon. We had thirty pupils enrolled. More would have attended had it not been for the heavy haying season this year. Seven teachers gave of their time to the School. The work and study periods were enjoyed by all as were also the cookies and coolade provided for all the recesses.

We undertook the Evangelism Mission with much trepidation, fearing we might not be able to work well enough without some real leadership. Pastor Sigmar and Mr. Charles Scrymgeour were out one Sunday and outlined the plans, apart from which we were on our own but not alone for the Holy Spirit filled us all with a vision and a will to work. We have never seen before such evidence of the Holy Spirit urging people to work. We had a capacity attendance at all the sessions. On the closing night we had to bring in extra chairs and benches.

Our Missioner was the Rev. Norman Lange of Rankin, Ontario. We cannot speak too highly of Pastor

Lange as a Missioner. He was truly filled with the Holy Spirit and preached as one inspired. It was indeed a wonderful experience and one we shall never forget.

The Rev. Eric Sigmar preached on Nov. 25 urging us to continue witnessing in our community with the same zeal that carried us through our week of Evangelism.

MRS. BONNIE BJARNASON.

Argyle Parish

Unfortunately we were not able to have the Evangelism Mission in the Argyle Parish this fall. The Director of our Mission has advised us to try to have our Mission in the early spring. Pastor Fredriksson attended the special Mission services at the First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg.

The Ladies Aid of Glenboro held its annual Bazaar on Nov. 3. The Ladies Aid of Baldur held its Bazaar on Oct. 26. Both events were a great success.

The Bru Congregation held its annual Thanksgiving Supper on Oct. 10. It was indeed a banquet enjoyed by an exceptional number of members and friends.

Baptisms at Glenboro: Louise Dawn and Cynthia Fay, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Johnson; Debra Linn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. Mantyka; Harold Byron, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Hallgrimson; Kathryn Jane, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. R. E. Helgason.

At Grund: Hannes Craig, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Einarson.

At Baldur: Benny Leigh, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gudnason; John Allan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sveinn Sveinsson.

At the Lutheran Church of Baldur on Nov. 10, Orville Ernest Clark of Baldur and Patricia Louise Boyle of Stonewall were united in holy wedlock.

Elis Gudfinnur Sigurdson of Glenboro passed away on Aug. 26 at the age of 57. Tryggvi Johnson of Baldur passed away on Sept. 6 at the age of 66. Tryggvi Sigvaldason of Baldur died Sept. 14 at the age of 93. Sigurdur Gudbrandson of Baldur died Oct. 22 at the age of 89.

Our Sunday Schools have started their courses of study for the year.

At Glenboro the attendance is 49 with six teachers. At Baldur the attendance is 32 with five teachers. At Bru the enrollment is 12 with three teachers. They are all busy now preparing for their Christmas programs.

MISS HANSINA GUNLAUGSON.

Point Roberts Parish

Our Sunday School classes resumed their studies on the second Sunday of September, after a two months vacation. We have only two teachers now, but have arranged our classes so that we can work it out satisfactorily. On the first Sunday of each month we are inviting all parents, relatives and friends to join with us in a Community Service with the children. We hope to have a religious film or slides to show from time to time, and by so doing we anticipate a growing interest in our church work. The children are very faithful in their attendance and it is a pleasure to work with them.

Our Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, Nov. 25, with Dr. H. Sigmar of Blaine in the pulpit. Definite plans have not yet been completed for our Christmas Service, but we may decide to combine our Sunday School program with the regular service on Dec. 23.

Our Ladies Aid is very busy at present making plans and working for the annual bazaar which is to be held on Nov. 24. A great deal of repair work is needed to be done to our church building and extra funds must be raised for this work.

MRS. DAGMAR THORSTEINSON.

Blaine Parish

Beginning with the Evangelism Mission Week which was held the week of April 22, beginning with an evening meeting, with a social hour following, one might say that the Blaine Church has seen a lot of activity this Spring and Summer. The Mission week was a wonderful success and a great uplift to the members and friends of the congregation. Attendance for one of the evening meetings was recorded as a hundred and thirty, which can be considered good for so small a congregation. Rev. Harold S. Sigmar of Kelso was our Missioner, and his sermons were

of the best. Many questions were answered by Rev. Sigmar, who had the assistance of his father, Dr. H. Sigmar, pastor of Blaine Church, in his fine work. Members of the congregation contributed a great deal of work and effort to help make the week a success. The church choir was on hand every evening with anthems, and special music such as solos, duets and quartettes were also enjoyed.

The Church choir's new vestments were dedicated in a brief service by Dr. H. Sigmar before the Mission week services.

May 6 the Church Choir gave a fine concert in the Church, in the evening, with Mrs. H. Sigmar as organist, Mrs. Halldor Johnson and Walter Schauer as soloists. The concert was well attended.

Wendy Diane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Anderson of Seattle, was baptized by Dr. Sigmar on Pentecost Sunday. On Mother's Day nine young people were confirmed. Dr. Sigmar also gave the sermon at the Bacaleaureate Service, at the Blaine High School this year.

On June 3, the Church Choir gave an evening concert in the Custer Lutheran Church, which was well attended. They were given a reception by the people of the Custer Church following the concert, and the entire program was tape recorded.

The Sunday School Picnic was held at the parish hall on June 10 because of rain. An excellent potluck dinner was served to the children and their parents.

July 8, the Blaine Church was host to three great ministers, Rev. Eric Sigmar of Winnipeg, Rev. Bragi Fridriksson of Gimli and Rev. Harold S. Sigmar of Kelso. All took part in the evening service with Dr. H. S. Sigmar. Mrs. Elvin Kristjanson, daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Sigmar, sang a solo. The entire Sigmar family was reunited during the first week in July, when all were home for the ULCA convention in Vancouver, B.C. Several people from Blaine attended the convention during some of its sessions. ❧

So far this Fall the attendance at Sunday School, Luther League, Senior and Junior Lutheran Ladies

Aids and at church has been excellent. Preparations are being made for the Thanksgiving and Christmas services. The Church Choir has been invited to sing at the Blaine Air Base November 27, at a special service being held there.

The highlight of the Fall quarter was the 40th anniversary celebration which was given for the Senior Lutheran Ladies Aid Oct. 7, and took the form of a fellowship luncheon after the Church Service that Sunday. A beautifully decorated birthday cake was the highlight of the luncheon. Several of the Ladies spoke words of appreciation for the efforts put forth by the Junior Aid on their behalf. Dr. H. Sigmar was chairman for the occasion. Mrs. J. J. Steauford gave a historical outline of the work of the Senior Ladies Aid through their forty years as an auxiliary to the Church. The Ladies were also presented with corsages that morning on entering the Church for the morning worship, and given a special welcome by Dr. Sigmar, with the choir singing a special anthem in their honor.

Work on the Parish Hall and the Church is gaining momentum and interest. Several men and women met Saturday, Nov. 10, to give the hall a new look, the unfinished wood was covered with a lighter finish which changes the interior picture completely, the cupboards in the kitchen were also given a coat of paint inside and out and everything looks much brighter. Faith and Hope Circles both have projects for the coming year and interest is centered in the newer look for the Church and its surroundings. The Luther League have as their project the beautification of the Church grounds.

MRS. HALLDOR JOHNSON.

Seattle Parish

The Rev. Norman B. Nelson began his pastorate at Calvary on October 24. A Choir Concert by both the Senior and Junior Choirs was given on October 26, in connection with a reception for Pastor Nelson, his wife, Gloria and their two-year-old son, Scott.

Calvary participated in the Puget Sound Area Evangelism Mission that began on Reformation Sunday. Inas-

much as he was new to the congregation, Pastor Nelson served as our Missioner. The Rev. Ross Hidy, ULCA Regional Director, met with our Evangelism Committee and the Church Council to outline work procedures. Mr. Ray Olason served as chairman. Thirty-seven homes were visited during the week.

The Lord truly blessed our efforts. Five people enrolled in the Pastor's Class, ten expressed a desire to transfer membership to Calvary, four wish to become members by reaffirmation of faith and seven children were found for baptism. These prospective members will be received into the Church on Dec. 23. Attendance and general response to the Evangelism meetings were excellent. A permanent committee on Evangelism was set up by the Church Council to carry on the good work thus begun, Mr. Ray Olson to assume the leadership of this special committee.

Pastor Nelson will be installed as Pastor at Calvary at an evening service on Dec. 2. Dr. Harold Sigmar of Blaine, a former president of Synod, will be official representative of our Synodical President and will officiate at the installation. His son, the Rev. Haraldur Sigmar of Kelso, Wash., will deliver the charge to the Pastor. The Rev. Kolbeinn Simundson of St. James Lutheran Church, will give the charge to the congregation.

Action was taken at a recent congregational meeting to negotiate the purchase of property adjacent to our present church site to facilitate future expansion.

On Sunday, Nov. 11, the Senior Choir of our Church travelled to Kelso, Wash., where they presented a concert at the Lutheran Church of which the Rev. Haraldur Sigmar is Pastor.

MISS SIGRID SCHEVING.

1956 CONVENTION ULCA

(Continued from Page 3)

annum was set for pastors retiring now and who have not had opportunity to participate in the Contributory Pension Plan.

The Board of Higher Education reported that about 360 pastors are

needed for our ULCA at once. More will be needed despite increased enrollments at seminaries because of the growing number of retirements and the many new congregations being organized. Synods were requested to "recruit" men for the ministry.

Two actions indicated the trend toward larger Lutheran merger: The Board of Parish Education (Sunday Schools, etc.) recommended that they would join with the other Lutheran bodies of the National Lutheran Council to prepare integrated parish educational materials. Their recommendation was adopted. A 13-member commission, consisting of four synod presidents named by the Executive Board, will seek a merger with other Lutheran Church bodies in the United States and Canada.

As in the past, the Board of Social Missions will continue to stress Evangelism and no special Board will be formed for this program at this time. However, the Evangelism Mission program, with a full-time staff of directors, will continue its operations until 1960. Emphasis is now being laid to guide congregations in a "Year-Around" evangelism effort locally.

There was heated argument regarding segregation, but in essence, the delegates approved a statement that racial segregation in congregations or schools violates Christian principle.

Another subject which caused much discussion was the one on marriage and family life. The delegates approved planned parenthood and the remarriage of divorced people who repent of their past failures, give evidence of Christian faith, and have received "adequate counsel and training in preparation for marriage."

Because of the crying needs for funds for a growing Church program, it was voted to bring the 1958 budget up to \$15 million and call upon ULC congregations for "double apportionment" for that year, our 40th anniversary.

Two of the special social features of the Convention were: the Lutheran Laymen's Banquet attended by over 2,500 all seated for dinner at

the same time in one building. Speaker was Judge Luther Youngdahl. The Sunday afternoon pageant of the Board of American Missions at Hershey Stadium with over 12,000 Lutherans under one roof together. The pageant dramatized the organizing of a new mission congregation and our delegates were especially thrilled that the name chosen for the mission was "St. Stephen's!"

ERIC H. SIGMAR

Presentation of Bible

July 8, 1956.

Pastor Brynjolfsson and Friends:

I am very happy to be present here this morning and to have the honor and opportunity of extending to you, our hosts for the Synodical Convention, Greetings and Best Wishes from the First Lutheran Church of Winnipeg.

We in Winnipeg have a special interest in your church, many of you are former members of our congregation and we also remember the time when your pastor served our parish for one year. I personally have many happy recollections of my association with Rev. E. S. Brynjolfsson and his

family and I am glad to say our friendship has grown with the years.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your pastor on the magnificent effort put forth by your congregation in the erection of this beautiful edifice. It is an accomplishment of which you may be justly proud, and on this auspicious occasion I have been delegated by the First Lutheran Church of Winnipeg to present you this—"BIBLE". The inscription on the inside pages reads as follows:

Presented by the First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, to the Icelandic Lutheran Church, Vancouver, on the occasion of the dedication of their new Church, on the 8th day of July, A.D. 1956.

CORNERSTONE

(Continued from Page 4)

Following the ceremony refreshments, supplied by Betel and the Lutheran Ladies Aid were served in the main building, consisting of sandwiches, special Icelandic dishes and coffee prepared in the Icelandic way of which over 700 cups were served.

—W.J.L., Icelandic Canadian.



Mr. Lincoln Johnson, one of the delegates of the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, presented a Pulpit Bible from his congregation to the new Church in Vancouver, on the occasion of its dedication at the time of the Synodical Convention last June. Mr. Johnson made the above remarks as he presented the Bible:

EVANGELISM SECRETARY SPEAKS . . .

Lutheran Evangelism Mission—Winnipeg Area, November 11th-16th

Twenty-one congregations participated in this Area Mission and agreed that it was one of the most thrilling and rewarding and meaningful ventures of their congregational life! Interesting too, was the fact that it was a joint effort with all Lutheran bodies in this area participating. Four of the congregations were from our Synod: First Lutheran, St. Stephen's, Selkirk, and Langruth. We were happy that our congregations ranked high in attendance, offerings, and full-participation in the program. Topping the entire list was our Langruth congregation! With a confirmed membership of 140, attendances at their six mission services ranged from a high of 169 to a low of 106. They conducted nightly visit to prospects in the community and secured 12 for the pastor's and four adults for transfer. Missioner was Pastor Norman Lange of Ontario. At First Lutheran, the missioner was Dr. Robert Stackel of New York, director of the Lutheran Evangelism Mission for the ULC. He is a dedicated man and a brilliant preacher. There was a very fine response from the congregation, and excellent attendances at the services. A number of commitments were received from the prospect list. Pastor Edward Day of St. Paul, Minn., was at Selkirk where a splendid mission was held, with wonderful attendances reported at all services. Very gratifying results were received at St. Stephen's with a total of 56 adult commitments divided among pastor's class, transfer of membership and re-affirmation of faith. The

Missioner there was Pastor N. H. Stacker of Syracuse, New York.

A Mass Closing Rally was held in the Winnipeg Civic Auditorium on Nov. 18th with an attendance of almost 2,500 people. Speaker was the Rev. William Downey of Milwaukee, Wis. The opening Leadership Rally was held at First Lutheran Church when over 750 leaders crowded in for the Commissioning Service. All Mission to Pastors meetings were held at First Lutheran Church. Total Mission attendance was 19,714.

Cavalier Area—November 11th-16th

Simultaneously an 11-congregation Area Mission was held in the Cavalier, N.D. area with congregations from three different synods of the ULCA taking part. Six of the congregations were of our Synod: United, Cavalier; Vikur, Mountain; Vidalin, Hensel; Peter's, Svold; Hallson; and Fjalla, Milton. Enthusiastic reports have come from this Area Mission where Pastor S. Guttormsson was chairman, and Pastor O. Skulason was secretary of the Area. The response and participation of the people was "wonderful", report these pastors! Attendances were gratifyingly high at all services, with the churches at Mountain and Cavalier filled every evening! Many commitments were received, with a large group for Pastor's class at United in Cavalier, 29; and Peter's, Svold, 9. A closing Mass Rally was held in the Cavalier Auditorium with over 700 in attendance. Total Mission attendance was 6,970.

ERIC H. SIGMAR.

A Greeting from Distant Friends

"We take this means of conveying to all our friends a sincere wish for a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year. We thank all those good people who by their friendship and cooperation helped to make our sojourn in Canada such a happy one. We send our former congregations special warm greetings and good wishes. May God grant you all, young and old, His Benediction upon your lives and labours."

KARTIN AND BRAGI R. FRIDRIKSSON,
Birkimel 8, (4th Floor),
Reykjavik, Iceland.

FROM SYNOD'S FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dear Christian Brethren:

At the Synodical Convention held last July at the Icelandic Lutheran Church in Vancouver, I had the privilege of serving as the chairman of your Finance Committee. At that time there was prepared a budget for benevolent giving which was UNANIMOUSLY approved by all delegates in attendance. The total in this budget has now been apportioned over all of our constituent parishes on a basis of confirmed membership according to the best information of the Synodical Secretary. This apportionment is as follows:

Confirmed Members 1957 Apportionment Jan. 1 to Dec. 31		
Arborg	242	\$ 842.16
Arnes	41	142.68
Baldur Immanuel	67	233.16
Frelsis Grund	31	107.88
Brown Gudbrands	43	149.64
Cavalier United	171	595.08
Churchbridge:		
Logberg		69.60
Concordia	94	306.24
Thingvallanylendu		76.56
Cypress River, Bru	76	264.48
Gimli	302	1,050.96
Glenboro	84	292.32
Hecla, Mikleyar	75	261.00
Hnausa	53	184.44
Husavik	28	97.44
Langruth	131	455.88
Lundar	194	675.12
Minneota, St. Paul's and Westerheims	201	699.48
Lincoln	75	261.00
Lincoln	75	261.00
Mountain Parish:		
Fjalla	43	149.64
Hallson	43	149.64
Peters Svold	125	435.00
Vidalins	142	494.16
Vikur	142	494.16
Point Roberts	29	100.92
Riverton	214	744.72
Seattle, Calvary	215	748.20
Selkirk	328	1,141.44
Silver Bay, Betel	67	233.16
Vancouver	220	765.60
Vidir	62	215.76
Winnipeg First Lutheran	899	3,128.52
Blaine	93	323.64
Geysir	132	459.36
St. Stephen's, Silver Heights	114	396.72
Gardar		

(NOTE—Apportionment is \$3.48 per Confirmed Member.)

Should there be any error in the number of members allocated to your particular parish you are being allowed thirty days in which to record an objection to your assessment. Any request for adjustment should be accompanied by a detailed report on the reasons for any changes.

Our record as a Synod of our contribution to the greater work of the Church is something of which none of us can be proud. While there are a few congregations which are giving evidence of their responsibility, there are too many of us who are not. It is not a coincidence that the congregations with the best pro rata rating are all congregations receiving mission aid. It is natural that these people are fully aware of the work being done, and needing to be done, by these funds. Let me assure you the need is great.

We have all heard and used the phrase "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Let us apply this to our Christian givings. The monies we contribute to our local parishes for General Fund-Current Expenses, Administration, etc., are monies we have, in fact, given ourselves. If we feel that we have satisfied our Christian responsibilities at this stage we are assuming a very un-Christia attitude. We have given only what we have received.

It must follow that the "blessed" in the quotation is directed to those who give without measuring it for material return. This is "Benevolence" giving. This is Christian giving directed by FAITH and to be a matter between the giver and his GOD.

There were some at the Synodical Convention who felt Benevolence giving had not been properly explained to their congregations. Providing them with an opportunity to read this report may make the need and their responsibility more clear.

R. B. VOPNI,
Synod Finance Committee.

THE SYNOD TREASURER SPEAKS

Receipts since June 27th, 1956 to December 6th, 1956

	General Benevolence	L.W.A.	Other
St. Stephen's	\$295.03	\$	\$
United Lutheran, Cavalier	451.55	45.60	62.80
Lincoln, Minnesota	10.00		
Hallson, N.D.	2.00		
Icelandic, Vancouver	82.40	84.10	75.00
Vidines, Husavik	25.00		
Hnausa	44.00		
Bru, Cypress River	15.00	10.00	
Arnes	30.00		
Hecla, Mikleyar	30.00		
Betel, Silver Bay	24.00		
Concordia, Churchbridge	30.00		
Vikur, Mountain	100.30		
St. Paul's Minneota	13.00*		1,249.83
*(Memory of late Rose Bardal)			
Lundar	11.00		
Thingvalla-Eyford	35.00		
First Lutheran, Winnipeg		25.00	368.19
First Lutheran Sunday School			21.65

The large amounts in the special "Other" column are for Betel Building Fund. The First Lutheran Church gave \$2,153.20 to this cause. The Synod treasurer cannot give credit to any money unless it passes through the Synod Bank Accounts. I am sure that our congregations give more than is shown above for many various causes. General Benevolence Missions is a regular assessment and therefore comes first. Lutheran World Action is also apportioned and is named as a Cause. Other Causes are not itemized. It costs nothing to use the Synod Bank as a clearing house and a record is made of your benevolence which stands to your credit. The practise of neglecting the Synod reflects NO CREDIT to the congregations which operate independently.

N. O. BARDAL.